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# **News Release**

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## **Sartell man indicted for production of child pornography**

A 42-year-old Sartell man was indicted yesterday in federal court on five counts of production of child pornography .

Dennis Michael Lemke was charged July 14 in Minneapolis. His indictment alleges that on five separate dates, with five separate minors, Lemke did knowingly employ, use, persuade, induce, entice and coerce a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing visual depictions of such conduct. The alleged dates were May 29, 2004, Feb. 18, 2005, Feb. 28, 2006, April 12, 2006, and from July 18, 2004, to Sept. 11, 2005.

According to a Federal Bureau of Investigation affidavit, a search warrant was executed at Lemke's then St. Cloud residence and authorities seized a computer, electronic storage media and a digital camera. An examination of the computer resulted in the discovery of a large number of sexually explicit images of children. Police also determined that some of the images were taken by the type of digital camera seized at the Lemke residence, and several of the images featured Lemke.

If convicted, Lemke faces a potential maximum penalty of 30 years in prison on each production count. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the St. Cloud Police Department and the FBI, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nathan P. Petterson.

This case is part of Project Safe Childhood (PSC), a national initiative that encourages the use of multi-jurisdictional task forces to investigate and prosecute cases that involve the sexual exploitation of children over the Internet. PSC urges that law enforcement efforts be complemented by community-wide campaigns to assist victims of exploitation and to educate parents, other adults, and children about Internet safety.

According to the U.S. Department of Justice, one in 33 children receives an unwanted sexual solicitation online each year. One in four children experiences unwanted exposure to sexually explicit material on the Internet each year. And, more than 20,000 images of child pornography are posted on the Internet every week. Moreover, recent research conducted by the

Federal Bureau of Prisons indicates a strong correlation between possessing or distributing child pornography and committing sexual-contact crimes against children.

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An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.